

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GH

SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION ON AKUFFO

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON LIEUTENANT GENERAL FREDERICK WILLIAM KWASI AKUFFO, HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. BORN MARCH 21, 1937 AT AKROPONG-AKWAPIM, EASTERN REGION, GHANA. MEMBER AKWAPIM TRIBE OF AKAN TRIBAL GROUP. EDUCATED IN PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOLS THROUGH SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL IN 1955. TAUGHT SCHOOL AT AKWATIA LOCAL COUNCIL MIDDLE SCHOOL UNTIL 1957 WHEN HE JOINED THE ARMY. CADET AT SANDHURST 1958-60 WHEN HE WAS COMMISSIONED SECOND LIEUTENANT 1959. SERVED WITH UN FORCES IN THE CONGO IN 1960. PARACHUTE INSTRUCTORS COURSE, ABINGDON, ENGLAND, 1961. BY 1966 WAS PROMOTED TO MAJOR AND COMMANDING OFFICER OF AIRBORN TRAINING SCHOOL, TAMALE, GHANA. ATTENDED ARMY STAFF COLLEGE, CAMBERLEY, U.K. IN 1967. VARIOUS MILITARY COMMANDS AND STAFF POSITIONS UNTIL IN 1973, AFTER PROMOTION TO COLONEL, WAS SENT TO INDIA DEFENCE COLLEGE, WELLINGTON, INDIA. UPON RETURN WAS PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER AND MADE COMMANDER OF THE BORDER GUARD SERVICE WHERE HE BUILT A REPUTATION AS A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN. IN 1974 WAS MADE COMMANDER, GHANA ARMY, AND IN 1975 WAS MADE A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. IN
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NOVEMBER 1976 HE WAS NAMED CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF OF GHANA ARMED FORCES AND WAS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL IN MARCH 1977. AKUFFO IS MARRIED (WIFE EMILY VICTORIA) AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN. HE PLAYS TENNIS AND SQUASH, IS ACCOMPLISHED AT JUDO AND KARATE. HE SPEAKS TWI AND FLUENT ENGLISH. HE IS PARTICULARLY RESPECTED AMONG HIS PEERS AS A GOOD

MILITARY MANAGER WHO RUNS A TIGHT SHIP.

2. COMMENT: HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING TACITURN AND SOMEWHAT ALOOF. SPEAKS WITH A BRITISH ACCENT AND GENERALLY ASSUMED TO BE PRO-BRITISH IN OUTLOOK. KNOWN TO HAVE HAD DIFFERENCES WITH ACHEAMPONG AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION UNSUCCESSFULLY ADVISED HIM TO RESIGN. ON PRESENT EVIDENCE, HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE ONE WHO ENGINEERED THE PALACE COUP AGAINST GEN ACHEAMPONG ON JULY 5, CARRYING ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL WITH HIM TO UNSEAT THE CHAIRMAN.

3. AMBASSADOR SMITH, NOW ON SELECTION BOARD DUTY IN DEPARTMENT, MAY HAVE FURTHER COMMENTS.
HOLMES

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